



Healthcentric Advisors ■ Qlarant
 Kentucky Hospital Association
 Q3 Health Innovation Partners
 Superior Health Quality Alliance

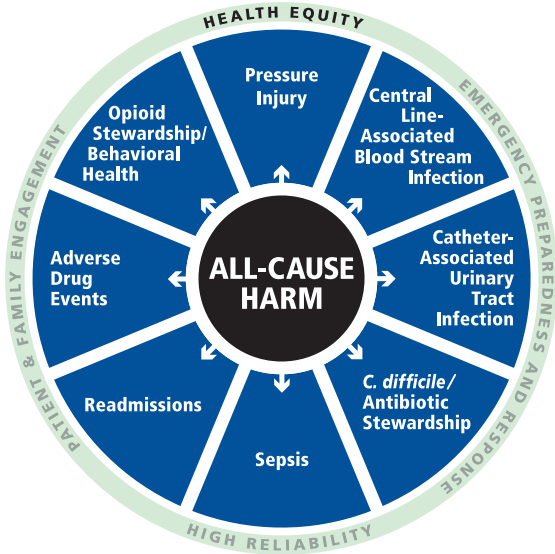
HQIC

Hospital Quality Improvement Contractors
 CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
 EQUALITY IMPROVEMENT & INNOVATION GROUP



HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

November 2023



NIH Designates People with Disabilities as Experiencing Health Disparities

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities has designated people with disabilities as a population with health disparities. Findings from the September 2023 progress report of the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities Working Group on Persons Living with Disabilities indicate that persons with disabilities experience barriers to accessing care, stigma, bias, discrimination, and marginalization. Council recommendations seek to increase research to meet the needs of this population, eliminate barriers to high-quality care and access, and improve health outcomes over time.

Administration’s Initiatives Bolster Smoking Cessation in Communities with Disparities

- The Department of Health and Human Services is finalizing a roadmap for increased public-private collaboration to accelerate smoking cessation.
- Partnering with Indian Health Service, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) is launching a text-based messaging program to help American Indians and Alaska Natives quit smoking.
- NCI’s Smokefree.gov initiative is launching digital resources to address barriers to quitting in communities that experience disparities caused by menthol cigarette use, with a focus on Black communities.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is funding a program to increase awareness of cessation services and coverage options among populations experiencing tobacco-related disparities.

November: Diabetes Month, Lung Cancer Awareness, COPD Awareness, Antibiotic Awareness

American Diabetes Association’s [campaign](#) focuses on diabetes awareness and [resources](#) targeting disparities.

American Lung Association offers [information](#) on screening for lung cancer and [data](#) on disparities.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute offers patient and provider [resources](#) on COPD.

American Lung Association provides [data](#) by race/ethnicity on COPD prevalence and mortality.

CDC’s antibiotic awareness [toolkit](#) includes key messages, patient education, and social media messaging.

Rural/CAH Corner



Telehealth Closes Gaps in Care in Rural Communities - Access Remains a Challenge

Read how telehealth has helped to close gaps in care for Latino patients in rural communities and how [ACTIVATE](#), a remote patient monitoring project promotes equitable access to telehealth-enabled solutions.

Training Community Members to Address Mental Health Crisis in Agricultural Communities

Using the [Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory \(COMET\) method](#) clinicians, medical professionals and clergy are trained in early detection, listening techniques, and interventions to address stigma and reduce the rate of depression and suicide in a rural Colorado community

In the News

[How Hospitals Are Addressing the Effects of Racism: A Mixed-Methods Study of Hospital Equity Officers](#)

This *Health Affairs* article discusses the challenges and opportunities of hospital equity officers as leaders in addressing disparities. Challenges revealed through surveys and interviews with hospital and health system equity officers include lack of standardized ways to collect data on social determinants of health, race, ethnicity and language; lack of diversity among staff; systemic and institutional racism; and institutional/structural policies that do not specifically undo the legacy of racism.

[Communicating About the Social Determinants of Health: Development of a Local Brand](#)

This study reported in the *Journal of Communication in Healthcare* describes an approach to a communications campaign aimed at creating and nurturing a culture of health to reduce the burden of chronic disease. With a goal to effectively convey social determinants of chronic disease prevention, the campaign used culturally and linguistically appropriate information to reach underserved communities. Multiple methods were used to engage the community in message testing, logo development, and content ideas; and campaign photography featured the ethnic diversity of the community. All these factors helped create a transformative campaign with community participation.

[Many Medicaid Enrollees with Opioid Use Disorder Were Treated with Medication; However, Disparities Present Concerns](#)

A report released by the U.S. Office of Inspector General (OIG) indicates that Medicaid enrollees who identified as Black, African American, or under 19, and persons with disabilities were less likely than enrollees who identified as White to receive medications for opioid use disorder such as buprenorphine, methadone, or naltrexone. Researchers also identified wide geographic variation in treatment rates. The OIG recommends reduction of barriers to receiving treatment by underserved groups and state/federal partnerships to educate Medicaid and CHIP enrollees about the benefits and ways to access treatment.

[How Providers Can Meet Varying Levels of Patient Health Literacy](#)

The Health Literacy Council of Delaware is bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders to develop a unified plan to address health literacy across the state. As reported in *Patient Engagement HIT, Council*, recommendations to healthcare professionals include adoption of teach-back as a strategy, using plain language, paying attention to non-verbal cues, and asking open-ended questions.



For more health equity news: <https://qi.ipro.org/health-equity-resources>

Upcoming Events

[Disabled Not Disposable: A Health Equity Conference](#)

Gillette Children's
November 29
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET

[Health-Related Social Needs Session 4](#)

IPRO
December 13.
12:00 – 12:45 PM ET

For a PDF version of this newsletter, including hyperlinks to resources for additional information, scan this QR code.



Or follow this link:
bit.ly/43iLAyH